

AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE THE LOSERS

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, today the House leadership, and we have heard it already this morning, is in the blame-shifting mode and the only losers are going to be the American people.

The majority of the Republicans say they want to save Social Security, but even under their balanced budget proposal in 7 years, they still borrow over \$100 billion from the Social Security trust fund. The Government is shutting down and we are inching closer to defaulting on our debt, and who is to blame for the disaster? The blame rests solely with the Republican majority.

The reason they need a continuing resolution and the debt limit increase is because the Republican majority failed to finish their work. As of today, only 5 appropriations bills out of 13 have been finished, and only 3 sent to the President. Instead of finishing their work, the Republican majority is saying well, Mr. President, you need to increase Medicare premiums and cut education, or we are shutting down the Government.

On September 22, the Washington Post reported Speaker GINGRICH saying, "I don't care what the price is. I don't care if we have no executive offices and no bonds for 30 days, not this time."

Well, the majority should care. The American people should not be made to pay the price for the Republican majority not doing their work.

□ 1015

PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE TASK FORCE CALLED POLICY DISASTER

(Mr. CLINGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLINGER. Madam Speaker, in one of his first acts after taking the oath of office, President Clinton announced the formation of the Health Care Task Force. He selected Mrs. Clinton to lead this task force and charged her with developing a legislative proposal to solve our Nation's health care problems.

I was very critical of the secret manner in which this task force operated and also the 500 outsiders who worked on it.

We now know that the task force was an unmitigated policy disaster. What we did not know was how much this rogue operation cost.

Well, now we know and it is not very pretty. The General Accounting Office reported to me last week that President Clinton's failed Health Care Task Force cost the taxpayers nearly \$14 million.

Shortly after the task force was established, the administration esti-

mated that the task force would cost less than \$100,000.

While the Clinton administration was behind closed doors planning a Government takeover of the health care industry, the taxpayers were picking up the tab.

This is just another example of the Clinton administration not being upfront with the Congress or the American people about the entire scale, scope, and cost of their taxpayer-funded activities.

It is no wonder the Clinton administration cannot balance the budget.

POSTPONEMENT OF PRIVILEGED RESOLUTION IN SPEAKER'S ETHICS CASE

(Mr. JOHNSTON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSTON of Florida. Madam Speaker, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. PETERSON] has preceded me to explain what and why our actions are changed today.

We had planned to offer a privileged resolution today calling on the House Committee on Standards and Official Conduct to report to the full House on the status of their investigation of ethics complaints filed against Speaker GINGRICH as well as their decision with respect to appointing outside counsel in this matter.

In light of the profound problems we face today, it is our decision to hold our resolution until the national crisis has subsided.

But we are no less committed to seeing it through to fruition and we will resume our efforts as soon as possible.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN HURTS ORDINARY AMERICANS

(Mr. RUSH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in utter amazement. The complete disregard of the interests of the American people by the Republican majority is appalling.

Federal workers, the people who elected us, should not be sacrificed as pawns for the Republican agenda. The Republican majority is hell bent on achieving its ends no matter what the sacrifice is—including the livelihood of those who have chosen to serve this Nation. This is not about balancing the budget—it is about back room deals for special interests.

Seniors, working families, students, and the poor have been silenced during this GOP budget process. If the Republicans are not willing to listen to ordinary Americans, then who do they listen to? Might it be big business and special interests? In case you have not figured it out by now—the shutdown of the U.S. Government is an indication of where the Republican majority's interests lie.

It is quite telling that the Republican majority is willing to give a tax break to the wealthiest Americans, yet they are not willing to avert a Government shutdown that will hurt thousands of working class families.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle often assert that the people voted for change last November. However, I doubt this was the kind of change they had in mind.

CHANGING THE CULTURE IN WASHINGTON

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Madam Speaker, I listened with great interest to my good friend from Illinois. He said, "Federal workers, the ones who elected us, do not want to see the Government closed down."

There are a lot of dedicated governmental employees. I do not doubt that for a second. But the fact is there is a special interest at work here. It is the special interest of those who always ask us to tax and spend and take more of your money to run a bigger and bigger and bigger Federal Government.

All the other issues are misdirected. All the other issues are to take you away from the central defining question that we are to decide today or in the days to come. That is, do we want to fundamentally change the culture of tax and spend in Washington?

President Clinton said time and again on the campaign trail, he was for a balanced budget. My good friends on this side of the aisle say time and again, "Well, sure we want to balance the budget, but no."

No ifs, and, or buts. No excuses. It is time to change the culture of tax-and-spend, time to balance the budget, and we intend to do exactly that.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES TO RECEIVE PAID VACATION

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Well, the Democrats are tax-and-spend and the Republicans can run Government on the cheap because they are not really for all these Government employees.

How, Madam Speaker, do they propose to do it this week? Well, they are going to give 800,000 Federal employees a paid vacation. Yes, that is right. Today and until they resolve this crisis and get back to the reality of America, they are going to pay 800,000 Federal employees to do absolutely nothing.

That is the kind of good business sense they have brought to this Government, when they could not pass the appropriations bills because of all their squabbles between the far right and the not-so-right in the Republican Party.

Who is going to pay for this nonsense? The American taxpayer. They are not going to save one dime this

week. They are going to be paying Federal employees to do absolutely nothing in order to accomplish their radical right agenda to cut Medicare and raise the premiums on every senior, on every person with disabilities come January 1.

It is wrong to ask American taxpayers to pay our Federal employees to do absolutely nothing just to satisfy this agenda of power of NEWT GINGRICH.

BALANCING THE BUDGET

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, the Washington Post was just right this morning when they said the real issue is balancing the budget, and this is the time to decide.

Are we going to continue adding to a \$5 trillion debt that smothers the economy and drives up interest rates and imperils our children's future or do we want to exercise some fiscal responsibility, trim the growth in spending and cut taxes?

The choice to me is clear. We cannot continue business as usual. We are going to balance this budget. That is what we were sent here to do.

I still have some hope, perhaps naive, that the President will stop his obstruction and begin to work with us. It was only a month or so ago that the President again conceded that the balance budget goal is necessary and essential. It was only a few weeks ago that he confessed that he had raised taxes too much.

If the President believes his own words have any meaning at all, he ought to work with us to cut taxes and cut spending and, yes, let us balance the budget. Today would be a good time for the President to start to work with us to do just that.

TIME TO REWRITE THE BUDGET

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, we all know that NEWT GINGRICH has a doctorate in history but over the past few days he may have earned a doctorate in revisionist history as well.

The Speaker has tried to blame President Clinton for the Government shutdown but he has been planning this for months.

Just look at what he said in April and in September.

In April: "The President will veto a number of things and we'll then put them all on the debt ceiling and then he'll decide how big a crisis he wants."

In September: "I don't care what the price is. I don't care if we have no executive offices and no bonds for 30 days, not at this time."

"I don't care." That is what Speaker GINGRICH says. Well, the President does care. He cares about our seniors, he

cares about our students, and he cares about our environment. That is why he will not accept this budgetary blackmail.

Madam Speaker, I say to the Speaker, if you want the President to sign your budget, do not rewrite history, rewrite your budget.

KEEPING THE BALANCED-BUDGET PROMISE

(Ms. PRYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PRYCE. Madam Speaker, President Clinton has said that he would present a 5-year, a 10-year, an 8-year, and a 7-year balanced budget plan.

Obviously, the President has a problem being committed to one particular course of action. It is really difficult to know where he stands.

Well, the American people do not need this kind of indecision. The national debt stands at \$4,985,913,011,032.65. Republicans in Congress are not backing down from the promise we made a few months ago, to balance the budget and give our children a brighter future.

Madam Speaker, when it comes to the budget, the President has offered no leadership, has given us no plan, and has left us no choice.

PUTTING FEDERAL AGENCIES IN THEIR PLACE

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, the last I heard we are still a participatory democracy with a Constitution, with rights, and the Constitution is supposed to protect our citizens.

Well, all of America has been up in arms over Waco and Ruby Ridge and all these Federal agencies came before the Congress and testified these were big mistakes, they would never let it happen again.

Ladies and gentlemen, the FBI wants the unusual authority, expanded authority to simultaneously monitor 1 out of 100 calls if you happen to live in a high-crime area.

Beam me up here, Madam Speaker. We have let the IRS, ATF, and FBI get in our kitchen. Now we are going to put them in our bedroom, in our businesses?

What is going on here, Congress? Big brother is one thing. But this is starting to sound like the KGB.

Do your job, Congress. The American people want you to put these agencies in their place.

STOP THE MADNESS

(Mr. WAMP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, yesterday the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] came to the House floor and declared how mad she was that this could happen, that the President and Congress could not get together and that Federal employees may be furloughed.

Let me tell you what makes me mad. It even makes me sick, that in my lifetime, since 1969, this Government has run up 5 trillion dollars' worth of debt and our children are going to have to pay it. And almost everything they earn is going to go to the Government in the future.

Stop the madness, Mr. President. Balance the budget. That is all we have to do is come together this week for our children and their future.

TIME FOR REPUBLICANS TO DO THEIR WORK

(Ms. FURSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FURSE. Madam Speaker, let me just get one thing clear. This has nothing to do with balancing the budget. The budget that the Republicans are talking about increases Pentagon spending by \$63 billion more than they asked for, and gives a \$245 billion tax break to the wealthy. That is not balancing the budget.

It is very simple. What this is about is that the Republicans have not been able to get their job done. In the first year they have been in control, instead of playing a PR game, they should have been toiling in the field. This is a crisis because they have not managed to get the appropriations bills sent to the President. The bill sent to the President for the continuing resolution and the debt increase was a Christmas tree. It was hung, hung with all sorts of extremist things, like gutting environmental laws and raising the Medicare premiums. As usual, it seems that the extremists are in control.

This is a time for common sense and fiscal responsibility. It is time for a sensible and responsible budget. It is time the Republicans did their work.

□ 1030

AMERICA IS TIRED OF PLAYING MAKE BELIEVE

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, first, Bill Clinton as a candidate said he would balance the budget in 5 years. Then he got into office. He said it is not really important to balance the budget. Then he said maybe we can do it in 10 years, then maybe we could do it in 7 years. Only his figures did not balance.